

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Binder Park Zoo

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Binder Park Zoo Receives a Generous Contribution

BATTLE CREEK MI, March 31, 2008 – A tremendous need at Binder Park Zoo has been met thanks to Pfizer Corporation, SEMCO Energy, Lochinvar Corporation, Bliler Anderson Mechanical Heating and Cooling (BAM), and Zoo supporter, Russ Smith. Due to the generous contributions by these businesses the Zoo was able to install a new boiler heating system in the Wild Africa Savanna Barn to help increase the efficiency of the current heating system

The 300 ft. long Savannah Barn sits just behind the tall grassy hills of the African savanna in Wild Africa and is the holding area for over 300 hooved stock; many of which are endangered species native to Africa. Because of the harsh winter climates the physical environment of the Savannah Barn is of high priority for the health, safety, and comfort of the residents that live here throughout the winter months.

The entire project estimated at \$30,000, included the generous donation of two boilers at half price from Lochinvar Corporation, headquartered in Lebanon, Tennessee. Pfizer Corporation contributed \$20,000 which funded a major portion of the project. Generous contributions were also made by SEMCO Energy, Bliler Anderson Mechanical Heating and Cooling (BAM), and Russ Smith.

The new system includes two new Lochinvar KNIGHT heating boilers added to the existing three boilers that are now in place. The additional BTU's will boost the heating efficiency throughout the entire facility making it much more efficient to achieve and sustain the desired temperatures.

“This new boiler system ensures that our animals have the best living environment throughout Michigan’s changing and unpredictable seasons,” said Jenny Barnett, Binder Park Zoo Director of Wildlife Conservation. “Many of the animals in the Savannah barn are tropical and the extra heat adds protection against frigid temperatures. This is a wonderful gesture from these outstanding businesses and their generosity is appreciated by all of us here at the Zoo.”

Over 6,000,000 people have visited Binder Park Zoo since it first opened in 1977. It is located outside of Battle Creek, Michigan, on 433 acres of natural forests and wetlands. In the past 30 years, the Zoo has grown to be one of the leading cultural attractions in the region. It was created on the model of an entrepreneurial self-supporting nonprofit organization, and is managed by a zoological society board of directors to "nurture empathy, understanding, and conservation of nature." In the last several years a conservation education center, a 40-acre natural wetlands exhibit, and the 50-acre Wild Africa exhibit and conservation carousel have been added to the original 80-acre zoo. Binder Park Zoo serves over 60,000 people annually in 30 different types of

formal education programs and is heavily involved in conservation of wildlife and natural habitats on five continents. In cooperation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and others, Binder Park Zoo is actively working to conserve a wide array of endangered species both at the Zoo and worldwide.

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